



Sooke
FINEARTSSHOW

SFAS 2026 SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

SHOW OBJECTIVES AND CRITERIA

The Sooke Fine Arts Show welcomes artists resident (including part-time) on any of BC's coastal islands, including Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and Haida Gwaii. Pieces in a variety of mediums will be chosen by our jurors for exhibition.

All artwork must be of a high calibre and display a good understanding of the chosen medium. Artwork must be the **original** creation of the artist with an emphasis on technical ability as well as artistic accomplishment. Each year SFAS strives to produce a fresh, original show. Work that is inventive, displays creativity and shows a fresh perspective is encouraged.

All submissions must meet the guidelines as outlined in this document. Work that does not meet these requirements will not be adjudicated.

2026 UPDATES

This section summarizes the changes from last year, for artists who are familiar with the show:

- *There are no significant changes from last year's guidelines.*

IMPORTANT 2026 DATES FOR SUBMITTING ARTISTS

Online submission:	March 15 - June 1, midnight*
Submission fees received by:	June 1
Notification of accepted art:	June 16
Drop-off of accepted art:	July 10 & 11
Show dates:	July 25 - Aug 3

***NOTE:** SFAS support for artists preparing submissions will not be available after 4:00pm on Monday, June 1. Online submissions will, however, remain open until midnight. The June 1 deadline is **final**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

ABOUT THE 2026 SHOW

The accepted artworks will be exhibited at the SEAPARC Leisure Centre in Sooke and simultaneously displayed in an online gallery, accessible via the SFAS website. The pieces will be viewable online after Purchasers' Preview night, and all art sales will be handled via the sales desk at the show (in person or by phone).

MEDIA CATEGORIES

All artwork submitted will be categorized according to medium for jurors' review. The volunteer SFAS Adjudication Committee has final authority as to which category a work is most suited.

- **2D** – Includes all media on board, canvas or paper (excluding Photography - see below). Giclée reproductions are not accepted for 2D work.
- **3D Sculpture** – Three dimensional, functional or sculptural work of any material(s), excluding clay or glass (see below).
- **Photography** – Categorized by type of **archival** print process used i.e: either Traditional Archival Print (silver gelatine) or Digital Archival Print. Photographs are only accepted as limited edition prints, restricted to runs of 25 or less, and upon acceptance, accompanied by Certificates of Authenticity specifying each print's limited edition number. Traditional photographic and digital images that have been altered via digital software or other means must state "creatively altered". Artists can only alter their own **original** photographs. Giclées are acceptable in this category.
- **Jewellery** – Artists must indicate hand-fabricated materials used in the "medium and substrate" field of the online submission form.
- **Ceramic** – Functional or sculptural work where the primary material is clay.
- **Glass** – Functional or sculptural work where the primary material is glass that has been hand-formed, handworked, handblown or hand cast.
- **Fibre** – Wall hangings, quilts, rugs, wearable work etc., where the primary material is fibre.
- **Digital Art** - Includes any artwork that draws upon digital technology as an essential part of its creative process. It can include digital drawings, paintings, illustration, and/or photographs that have been excessively enhanced using digital tools. All artists are required to outline their artistic process when submitting digital art. AI-generated art is not eligible - see Artwork Requirements & Eligibility below.

ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY

- Up to 3 pieces per artist may be submitted. (Diptychs, triptychs, etc are considered one piece). Submission fees are \$20 (+GST) per piece and are not refundable after submissions have closed.
- Artists can submit 3 artworks for the jury, but only up to 2 pieces from one artist may be chosen for exhibition.
- Artwork must be the **original** creation of the artist. See "*Copyright Guidelines*" below.
- Collaborations are acceptable. The submission process should be entered under one artist's name, and the names of the other collaborators should then be listed in the the "Artist Name" field within the item details. An artist's involvement in a collaboration would be considered one of their three submissions.

- The maximum size for 2D artwork (including diptychs and triptychs, etc) is 7' 6" x 7' 6" (228cm x 228cm). For 3D works, a maximum of 9' 0" (108" or 274cm) in height applies.
- SFAS strives to present a fresh, original show each year. Artwork must be completed in the last 18 months, and not have been shown online or in person in another major, juried art show on BC's Coastal Islands.
- The Sooke Fine Arts Show is both an exhibition and a sale. All artwork must be available for sale at a fair market price (minimum \$350).
- Limited Editions: photographic prints and 3-D cast work (from artist's originals) are accepted for adjudication in limited editions of not more than 25. Such work must be annotated with limited edition number, run and process i.e. 2/25, silver gelatine/bronze/cold cast bronze, etc. and must be accompanied by Certificates of Authenticity upon acceptance into the show (i.e it is not required at the submission stage). This also applies to work created on a 3-D printer (see computer generated note below). A piece from a limited edition run will be accepted **once** for showing at any Sooke Fine Arts Show.
- Hand-pulled engravings, lithographs and etchings are accepted for adjudication, in limited editions of not more than 30, accompanied by Certificates of Authenticity upon delivery to the show.
- Digital artwork must be entirely original and/or created from the artist's original work. Accepted digital artwork must be printed for exhibition. Artwork that has been substantially generated by an AI art generator is not eligible. Artists considering using an AI art generator in their work should contact the SFAS office prior to submission to discuss potential eligibility issues.
- The Sooke Fine Arts Show respects the cultural rights of Indigenous Peoples. It is requested that artists' work be culturally appropriate in its content, and that artists using Indigenous motifs/designs in their work have the right and/or expressed permission to do so.
- Reproductions or copies of 2D work (such as giclées/inkjet/archival ink) will **not** be accepted for adjudication. (Photography and computer-generated works can be printed using these methods, as long as they are accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity stating limited edition run & number.)
- Instructor-led work created within workshops/classrooms will **not** be accepted for adjudication.
- Substitutions for or changes to the submitted artwork will not be accepted. No exceptions.

COPYRIGHT GUIDELINES

SFAS supports the rights of artists and requires that all submitted artwork be the *original* creation of the submitting artist. It is incumbent on all artists to familiarize themselves with Canadian copyright laws to ensure that they are not infringing on another artist's rights.

Original Art

Artists are encouraged to submit artworks that reflect their own original, personal vision and style. If an artwork is recognizably based on the work of another artist, or uses a part of another artist's artwork as a creative base, it may be subject to copyright infringement. Such works are discouraged for submission to a juried art show and sale. Eligibility of any artwork is up to the discretion of the SFAS adjudication committee and the jurors.

Using Photographs as Source Material

It is important to note the FCA (Federation of Canadian Artists) policy with regards to using photographs as reference. SFAS supports the following statement:

“While using photos as reference for painting is a long held accepted practice, making substantive use of stock imagery or photos taken by professional photographers is not permissible, even with their permission. Photographs by professional photographers are considered artworks in and of themselves. Reference photos must be taken by the artist themselves or provided to them by an amateur photographer with their express consent. Stock images may only be referred to for anatomical study and must be incidental to the completed artwork to be permissible.”

– FCA Policy, section 7.1.5

If an artist is unsure whether or not a work would be eligible, they are encouraged to email the SFAS office well in advance of the submission deadline.

SFAS retains the right to remove any artwork that may contravene copyright laws or SFAS standards. The SFAS also retains the right to refuse eligibility for any artist that has violated or not adhered to SFAS guidelines in the past.

FEES

- Submission Fee: \$20 (+ GST) per piece, due by **June 1, 2026** (via the submission system)
- Can also be paid by credit card, cash, debit, or cheque. Call the SFAS office for info: 250-642-7256.
- If accepted:
 - Exhibition Fee: \$40 (+ GST) per accepted piece, due by **June 26, 2026**
 - Sales Commission: 30%

SUBMISSION IMAGES

Image quality:

- Use plain or neutral backgrounds.
- Must be clearly focused & properly exposed.
- Artists may be asked to submit new pictures if images are of poor quality.
- All images MUST give as close a representation of the work as possible re colour & detail.
- **Visible signatures should be obscured**, as jurying is done anonymously.
- It is preferred that frames not be included in submission images.

Number of images:

- 2D, Photography, Fibre, Jewellery, Digital Art: 2 images
- 3D, Glass/Ceramic: 3 images

1st, 2nd & 3rd Images:

- The first image should be the main image that shows the full piece.
- The 2nd image should be used to show detail.
- It is recommended to include something for scale in one of the 3D images.
- For diptychs & triptychs, etc: The first image should show the whole piece, and the 2nd & 3rd images show detail.

Image specifications:

- At least 1500 pixels on one side
- Maximum 4MB
- In jpg/jpeg format

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

This information is gathered for admin purposes, adjudication, and portions will be viewable online if a piece is accepted. Please see the table below to learn which information is visible in each scenario.

The Sooke Fine Arts Society privacy policy ensures that artist information will not be shared without the consent of the artist. Upon acceptance, artists are asked to specify which contact details they are comfortable sharing in the show catalogue.

Important: *Please enter information carefully and check for accuracy.*

- **Contact Information:** Artist's name, telephone number, address, and email.
- **Title:** The title of the piece.
- **Artist Name:** Optional - this space is for artists who use a professional alias. Additional names for collaborations can also be listed here.
- **Category:** See Media Categories above. SFAS may re-categorize artwork prior to adjudication.
- **Medium and Substrate:** A brief explanation of the techniques and primary artistic materials (i.e. oil, acrylic, watercolour, ceramic, glass, gold leaf, sterling silver, etc.) and the substrate or base materials, if any (i.e. canvas, steel, wood panel, rice paper, silk, etc.).
 - For **Jewellery**, artists must indicate any hand-fabricated materials.
 - For **Photography & Digital Art**, artists must include: the type of **archival** print process used (only archival prints are accepted) plus the number and limited edition run (i.e. 3/25) along with any development/printing techniques (i.e. platinum print, Chromogenic, Daguerreotypes, etc.) and creative alterations. For creatively altered photographs, artists must advise how their artwork was altered, i.e. whether digitally altered, used as a base/foundation, etc.
- **Contains Indigenous Motifs:** This checkbox is in accordance with our policy on respecting the cultural rights of Indigenous Peoples. Artists should **only** check the box if they have used Indigenous motifs in their work and have the right and/or permission to do so.
- **Finished Dimensions:** Measurements of the finished artwork in inches, in two or three dimensions, as appropriate.
- **Price:** The sale price of the artwork (\$350 minimum). All work submitted must be for sale. Artists should consider the following when setting their price: cost of materials, originality/uniqueness of concept, creative time invested, framing/presentation costs, submission, exhibition and commission fees.
- **Description:** A brief (max 75 words) description to be shared with the jurors, of the artist's process, technique, inspiration, background, etc to engage jurors and create a positive connection with the artwork. The description should be presentation-ready, as it will be displayed online if the piece is accepted.

Please Note:

- There will be no opportunity to change details on submission entries after June 1, 2026.
- A Submission Requirements Checklist is provided on our website to help artists ensure all requirements for submission have been met.
- Artist biographies will be collected after acceptance, via the Exhibition Registration form.
- Artists wishing to review the artwork presentation requirements for the 2026 show should refer to the SFAS 2026 Exhibition Guidelines.
- For more information about submitting to the 2026 show, please refer to our [Artist FAQ](#)

Information visibility:

	SFAS Admin Purposes	Viewable to Jurors	Viewable by Public if Accepted
Artist Name & Contact Info	✓		✓
Contains Indigenous Motifs	✓		
Category	✓	✓	✓
Medium & Substrate	✓	✓	✓
Finished Dimensions	✓	✓	✓
Price	✓		✓
Description	✓	✓	✓

JURYING

Each submission will be screened by the Adjudication Committee prior to jurying to ensure compliance with these Submission Guidelines.

An independent panel of jurors is selected each year to review submissions and select pieces to be exhibited in the Sooke Fine Arts Show. Jurors are professionals in their fields, and may include curators, gallery owners, educators and established artists. Jurors are also tasked with selecting award-winning artwork. The jurying process is anonymous. Jurors see submission images, title, medium, substrate, size, and optional description, and submissions are displayed in random order.

Please Note: Inclusion in the exhibition is at the sole discretion of the jurors and their decision is final. Jurors are not able to provide feedback on why pieces were not accepted.

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE

Artists will be notified June 16, 2026 by email once jurying is complete. Once accepted, exhibiting artists will be required to complete an online registration form by June 26, 2026.

Artists should add sfas@sookefinearts.com to their known sender list to ensure SFAS email is not flagged as spam. The list of accepted artists will also be available under [Exhibiting Artists](#) on our website by 5pm on June 16.

COMMITMENT TO SHOWING

All submitting artists sign an agreement indicating that they understand submitting artwork to the Sooke Fine Arts Show is a commitment to exhibiting & selling that work in the show. Pulling a piece after acceptance means that another artist may have missed the opportunity to show their work. SFAS takes this matter very seriously, and breaking this agreement could result in an administration fee equal to 15% of the sale price of the removed artwork.

QUESTIONS?

Please reach out to the SFAS Office: sfas@sookefinearts.com / 250-642-7256.